

REMARKS

I. Status of Claims

Claims 1 to 18 were previously cancelled via a preliminary amendment dated January 27, 2006. Claims 32 to 39 are canceled without prejudice in response to the Restriction Requirement. Claims 24 and 25 have been withdrawn without prejudice as reading on the non-elected species. Claims 19 to 23 and 26 to 31 are now pending. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter was added in this amendment.

II. Restriction Requirement

In the Office Action, the Examiner asserted that the present application contains claims which are directed to the following three distinct inventions and stated that restriction to one of the three inventions is required:

Group I: claim(s) 19-31, drawn to a process;

Group II: claim(s) 32-36, drawn to a process; and

Group III: claim(s) 37-39, drawn to a product.

In response, Applicants elect, without traverse, Group I (claims 19-31), drawn to a process. Claims 32 to 39 were related to the invention of Groups II and III, and, therefore, were canceled as reading on the non-elected invention.

ELECTION OF SPECIES

In the Office Action, the Examiner asserted that the present application contains claims which are directed to more than one species of the generic invention in Groups I and III and stated that Applicant is required to elect a single species to which claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. In the office action, the Examiner stated that the species are as follows:

Species A: fixing by sewing;
Species B: fixing by tufting;
Species C: fixing by clipping; or
Species D: fixing by adhesive.

In response to the election of species requirement, Applicants elect the following species, without traverse: “Species A: fixing by sewing”.

Claims 24 and 25 have been withdrawn without prejudice as reading on the non-elected species. It is respectfully submitted that pending claim 23 is encompassed and is readable on the elected species.

Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner’s attention to item 4 on page 3 of the Office Action dated October 10, 2008 wherein the Examiner states that “no claim is generic.” However, in item 3 on page 2 of the Office Action dated October 10, 2008 the Examiner states: “this application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention in Groups I and III”. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submits that independent claim 19, upon which claims 22 and 23 depend, either directly or indirectly, is generic. Applicants also respectfully submit that claims 20 to 22 and 26 to 31 are also generic.

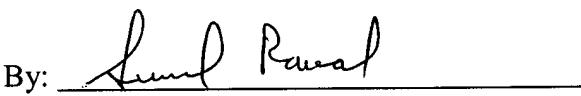
Conclusion

No fee is believed required. If any fee is required at this time, the Commissioner is authorized to charge payment of the same to Deposit Account No. 50-0552.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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